

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12

AID-20 CU-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 RSR-01 /131 W
----- 031117

R 262238 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE 6997

INFO GOV PANCANAL

USCINCSO

USUN NEW YORK 355

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1687

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: TORRIJOS' TOURS

REF: PANAMA 1406

SUMMARY: AS PROMISED, TORRIJOS HAS BEGUN HIS CONSULTATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY. IN ENIGMATIC TERMS, HE INDICATES FORMAL DECISION BY NATION WILL DETERMINE GOP' S NEXT MOVE AND THAT VIOLENCE MAY BE ONLY A MATTER OF TIMING. CONSULATION TENDS TO BE MONOLOGUE SATURATED WITH HYPERBOLE SUCH AS " THE ONLY THING FOR WHICH I CRITICIZE CHRIST IS THAT HE DIED WITHOUT KILLING." END SUMMARY.

1) WASTING NO TIME FOLLOWING UNSC MEETING, TORRIJOS TOOK TO HUSTINGS THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 24/25.

2) PRENSA LATINA REPORTED MARCH 24 TORRIJOS' S EXCLUSIVE PRESS CONFERENCE FOR CUBAN AND PERUVIAN NEWSMEN IN DAVID, CHRIQUI. HE SAID THAT ANY DECISION REGARDING FUTURE NEGOTIATION WITH US WOULD BE DONE " BY PLEBISCITE" AND THAT HE WOULD LIMIT HIMSELF TO RATIFYING WHAT THE PEOPLE DECIDE. HE RECALLED THAT IN 70 YEARS OF HARSH STRUGGLE BY THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE ONLY 2 PERIODS
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AND 3 COMMAS HAVE BEEN CHANGED IN THE ORIGINAL TREATY AND ADDED THAT THOSE MODIFICATIONS DO NOT ALLOW THE US TO WIDEN THE EXISTING CANAL OR TO BUILD A NEW ONE WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF PANAMA. TORRIJOS ANNOUNCED THAT PANAMA CAN OBTAIN THE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES TO BUILD A NEW CANAL WITH A NATIONAL COMPANY AND WITH MULTI- TS BE INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT PROGRAM:

A. (UNDER OFFICE FACILITIES, ITEM 10, CONFERENCE AND DELEGATION CENTER)

(1) CONFERENCE ATTACHE; 1 AMERICAN; 330 SQ. FT.

(2) SECRETARY, FILES AND WORK AREA; 1 AMERICAN; 300 SQ. FT.

B. (UNDER APARTMENT FACILITIES)

(1) ONE ONE- BEDROOM APARTMENT; 750 SQ. FT.

(2) ONE TYPE " B" THREE- BEDROOM APARTMENT; 1,540 SQ. FT.

4. PRELIMINARY REVIEW BY EMBASSY OF FBO DRAFT PROGRAM DATED 2/14/73 SHOWS PROGRAM TO BE, IN GENERAL, AN EXCELLENT ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE FOR ESSENTIAL EMBASSY SPACE NEEDS. ONE ISOLATED EXCEPTION IS THE INEXPLICABLE ABSENCE FROM THE DRAFT OF THE TWO EFFICIENCY APARTMENTS AND SHORTFALL OF 25 OF THE ONE- BEDROOM APARTMENTS PROPOSED IN REPAIR. SINCE THE EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN CONSULTED CONCERNING ANY SUCH MASSIVE CUTBACK, IT ASSUMES THAT THESE APARTMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN OMITTED FROM THE DRAFT PROGRAM THROUGH AN OVERSIGHT. PLEASE CONFIRM.

5. FYI. EMBASSY'S BASIC PRESENTATION OF PROJECTED APARTMENT NEEDS IS CONTAINED IN ITS OM DATED 8/11/69 AND PREVIOUS OM'S. REFERENCE OM NOTES THAT PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED APARTMENTS WITH NUMBER OF BEDROOMS EQUAL TO NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS BASED ON EMBASSY'S BEST ESTIMATE FOR FAMILY COMPOSITION OF PROJECTED EMBASSY STAFF. SINGLE PERSONNEL ARE ALLOCATED ONE BEDROOM APARTMENTS. SINCE IT IS INCONCEIVABLE, EITHER FROM THE STANDPOINT OF SECURITY OR OF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, THAT QUARTERS FOR SINGLE EMBASSY PERSONNEL WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE PLANNED NEW EMBASSY COMPLEX, THE NEED FOR THE FULL NUMBER OF EFFICIENCY AND ONE- BEDROOM APARTMENTS AS PROPOSED IN REPAIR, PLUS THE ONE ADDITIONAL ONE- BR REQUESTED IN PAR. 3, ABOVE, APPEARS EVIDENT.

6. ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY CABLE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIEW OF PRESUMED ADVANCED STAGE OF PREPARATION
OF PROGRAM FOR NEW COMPLEX. DUBS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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